

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 18, 19-21, 22-26, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 16-21 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Covington et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,358,381. Claims 22-28 were deemed to be drawn to allowable subject matter.

In this response, claims 16 and 17 have been amended. Claims 16-32 continue to be pending.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections to claims 35 U.S.C. under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 18, 19-21, 22-26, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that antecedent basis is lacking in each of those claims.

Applicants have amended independent claim 16, from which each of those claims depend from, to add the missing antecedent basis.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 18, 19-21, 22-26, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Rejections to claims 16-21 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 16-21 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Covington et al.

Covington purports to describe an improved feathering flexure for a helicopter rotor system yoke constructed of glass fibers embedded in a polymer matrix that includes a thin central web and six thin flanges. In Fig. 8, Covington shows an embodiment an enlarged transverse cross-section of the feathering flexure 61.

Applicants have amended claim 16 to include several of the features from claim 17 and furthermore to specify that each of the gaps vertically separating the webs in each of the two groups is substantially narrower than a thickness of each adjacent web. Support for this feature is found, for example, in the Figure and at paragraph [0017] of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that Covington et al. does not teach this feature, but instead teaches gaps between the webs that are substantially wider than the thickness of the adjacent webs themselves. See Fig. 8.

Applicants have also amended claim 17 to recite that each of the webs extends from the middle area to lateral free side edges of the twist element and the thickness of each web increases continuously from the middle area to the free lateral edges. Support for the amendment to claim 17 is found, for example, at paragraph [0017] of the specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that Covington et al. does not teach this feature, but instead teaches six flanges 67-72 that have an essentially constant thickness for most of their length from central web 73 to the free edges.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 16-21 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

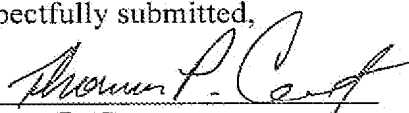
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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